

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-7, 10 and 14 as follows:

1. (Amended) An imaging apparatus for generating an image signal from incident light with higher spatial frequencies of said incident light limited to reduce undersampling artifacts, said apparatus comprising:
an image sensor for generating the image signal from an array of photosites; and
an optical section having a birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter interposed in a path of the incident light to produce a blurred image on said photosites, [wherein] said birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter birefringence [is greater] being greater than 0.05.
2. (Amended) An imaging apparatus for generating an image signal from incident light with higher spatial frequencies of said incident light limited to reduce undersampling artifacts, said apparatus comprising:
an image sensor for generating the image signal from an array of photosites; and
an optical section having a birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter interposed in a path of the incident light to produce a blurred image on said photosites, [wherein] said birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter [is] being lithium niobate.
3. (Amended) An imaging apparatus for generating an image signal from incident light with higher spatial frequencies of said incident light limited to reduce undersampling artifacts, said apparatus comprising:
an image sensor for generating the image signal from an array of photosites; and
an optical section having a birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter interposed in a path of the incident light to produce a blurred image on said photosites, [wherein] said birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter [is] being calcite.
4. (Amended) An imaging apparatus for generating an image signal from incident light with higher spatial frequencies of said incident light limited to reduce undersampling artifacts, said apparatus comprising:
an image sensor for generating the image signal from an array of photosites; and

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an optical section having a birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter interposed in a path of the incident light to produce a blurred image on said photosites, [wherein] said birefringent uniaxial crystal optical filter [is lithium] being Lithium Tantalate.

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5. (Amended) An imaging apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein an angle between an optical axis of said optical filter and a line normal to a filter [facets] facet is 37.85° .

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6. (Amended) An imaging apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said optical filter is cut from a boule so that a crystal axis is at 37.85° to [the] a boule axis of symmetry.

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C4*

7. (Amended) An imaging apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said optical filter is comprised of a first plate and a second plate of lithium niobate.

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10. (Amended) An imaging apparatus as in Claim 1 wherein said blurred image is comprised of at least four spots.

14. (Amended) An imaging apparatus for generating an image signal from incident light with higher spatial frequencies of said incident light limited to reduce undersampling artifacts, said apparatus comprising:

an image sensor for generating the image signal from an array of photosites; and

an optical section having an optical filter made of lithium niobate interposed in a path of the incident image light so as to produce at least four spots at a detector plane, [and wherein] an optical axis of the lithium niobate [is] being at an angle of approximately 37.85° from a filter facet.

Please add new claims 15 and 16 as follows:

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--15. An imaging apparatus as in claim 7, wherein said second plate comprises a plane which is tilted at a 45° angle to a plane of said first plate.

16. An imaging apparatus as in claim 7, wherein each of said first and second plates is coated with an anti-reflection coating.--